

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An image data distribution system, comprising:

an image data transmitting apparatus that includes,

a request information receiving unit that receives client's request information transmitted by way of a network,

a request information analyzing unit that analyzes the request information received by the request information receiving unit,

a multiple viewpoint image supply unit which selects necessary image data from coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images taken by a plurality of cameras, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing unit and decodes and supplies selected data,

an image generating unit which, based on image data supplied from the multiple viewpoint image supplying unit, generates left eye viewpoint image data and right eye viewpoint image data of an image viewed from a viewpoint in conformity with the request information,

an image synthesizing unit that synthesizes the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data generated by the image generating unit, based on display unit information from the request information, by joining the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data side-by-side,

a coding unit that encodes image data synthesized by the image synthesizing unit,

a transmitting unit that transmits the encoded image data to the network; and

an image data receiving apparatus that includes,

a receiving unit that receives the encoded image data via the network,

a decoding unit that decodes the encoded image data received by the receiving unit,

an image processing unit that processes the decoded image data into a stereoscopic display format so as to be displayable on a display unit, the display unit displaying image data processed by the image processing unit,

a request information input unit that allows input of the client's request information, and

a request information transmitting unit that transmits the request information to the network.

2. (Previously Presented) An image data transmitting apparatus, comprising:

a request information receiving unit that receives client's request information transmitted by way of a network;

a request information analyzing unit that analyzes the request information received by the request information receiving unit;

a multiple viewpoint image supply unit which selects necessary image data from coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images taken by a plurality of cameras, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing unit and decodes and supplies selected data;

an image generating unit which, based on image data supplied from the multiple viewpoint image supplying unit, generates left eye viewpoint image data and right eye viewpoint image data of an image viewed from a viewpoint in conformity with the request information;

an image synthesizing unit that synthesizes the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data generated by the image generating unit, based on display unit information from the request information, by joining the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data side-by-side;

a coding unit that encodes image data synthesized by the image synthesizing unit; and

a transmitting unit that transmits the encoded image data to the network.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image data distributing system, comprising:
according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an image data transmitting apparatus that includes,

a request information receiving unit that receives client's request information
transmitted by way of a network,

a request information analyzing unit that analyzes the request information
received by the request information receiving unit,

a multiple viewpoint image supply unit which selects necessary image data from
coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images taken by a plurality of cameras, based
on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information
analyzing unit and decodes and supplies selected data,

an image generating unit which, based on image data supplied from the multiple viewpoint image supplying unit, generates left eye viewpoint image data and right eye viewpoint image data of an image viewed from a viewpoint in conformity with the request information,

an image synthesizing unit that synthesizes the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data generated by the image generating unit, based on display unit information from the request information, by joining the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data side-by-side,

a coding unit that encodes image data synthesized by the image synthesizing unit,

a transmitting unit that transmits the encoded image data to the network; and

an image data receiving apparatus that includes,

a receiving unit that receives the encoded image data via the network,

a decoding unit that decodes the encoded image data received by the receiving unit,

an image processing unit that processes the decoded image data into a stereoscopic display format so as to be displayable on a display unit, the display unit displaying image data processed by the image processing unit,

a request information input unit that allows input of the client's request information, and

a request information transmitting unit that transmits the request information to the network,

the image data transmitting apparatus, further comprising:

a management information adding unit that adds management information for enabling access to the image data of individual viewpoints and random access, to the multiple viewpoint image data.

5. (Currently Amended) An The image data transmitting apparatus, comprising:
according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a request information receiving unit that receives client's request information transmitted by way of a network;

a request information analyzing unit that analyzes the request information received by the request information receiving unit;

a multiple viewpoint image supply unit which selects necessary image data from coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images taken by a plurality of cameras, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing unit and decodes and supplies selected data;

an image generating unit which, based on image data supplied from the multiple viewpoint image supplying unit, generates left eye viewpoint image data and right eye viewpoint image data of an image viewed from a viewpoint in conformity with the request information;

an image synthesizing unit that synthesizes the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data generated by the image generating unit, based on display unit information from the request information, by joining the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data side-by-side;

a coding unit that encodes image data synthesized by the image synthesizing unit; and

a transmitting unit that transmits the encoded image data to the network,

the image data transmitting apparatus, further comprising:

a management information adding unit that adds management information for enabling access to the image data of individual viewpoints and random access, to the multiple viewpoint image data.

6. (Previously presented) An image data distribution system, comprising:

an image data transmitting apparatus that include,

a request information receiving unit that receives client's request information transmitted by way of a network,

a request information analyzing unit that analyzes the request information received by the request information receiving unit,

a multiple viewpoint image supply unit that supplies multiple viewpoint image data,

an image generating unit which, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing unit, receives input of necessary image data from the multiple viewpoint image supply unit and generates left eye viewpoint image data and right eye viewpoint image data of an image viewed from a viewpoint in conformity with the request information,

an image synthesizing unit that synthesizes the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data generated by the image generating unit, based on display unit information from the request information, by joining the left eye viewpoint image data and the

right eye viewpoint image data side-by-side,

a coding unit that encodes image data synthesized by the image synthesizing unit,

a transmitting unit that transmits encoded image data to the network; and

an image data receiving apparatus that includes,

a receiving unit that receives the encoded image data via the network,

a decoding unit that decodes the encoded image data received by the receiving unit,

an image processing unit that processes decoded image data into a stereoscopic display format so as to be displayable on a display unit, the display unit displaying image data processed by the image processing unit;

a request information input unit that allows input of the client's request information,

a request information transmitting unit that transmits the request information to the network, and

a judgment unit that judges whether the received image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.

7. (Previously presented) An image data receiving apparatus, comprising:

a receiving unit that receives, by way of network, coded image data of an image viewed from a left eye viewpoint and a right eye viewpoint in conformity with client's request information transmitted by way of a network, the coded image data including left eye viewpoint image data and right eye viewpoint image data that have been joined side-by-side;

- a decoding unit that decodes the coded image data received by the receiving unit;
- an image processing unit that processes the decoded image into a stereoscopic display format so as to be displayable on a display unit, the display unit displaying image data processed by the image processing unit;
- a request information input unit that allows input of request information of a client;
- a request information transmitting unit that transmits the request information to the network; and
- a judgment unit that judges whether the received image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.

8. (Previously presented) An image data distribution system, comprising:

- an image data transmitting apparatus that includes,
 - a request information receiving unit that receives client's request information transmitted by way of a network,
 - a request information analyzing unit that analyzes the request information received by the request information receiving unit,
 - a multiple viewpoint image supply unit that supplies multiple viewpoint image data,
 - an image generating unit which, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing unit, receives input of necessary image data from the multiple viewpoint image supply unit and generates left eye viewpoint image data and right eye viewpoint image data of an image viewed from a viewpoint in

conformity with the request information,

an image synthesizing unit that synthesizes the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data generated by the image generating unit, based on display unit information from the request information, by joining the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data side-by-side,

a coding unit that encodes image data synthesized by the image synthesizing unit,
and

a transmitting unit that transmits the encoded image data to the network; and

an image data receiving apparatus that includes,

a receiving unit that receives the encoded image data via the network,

a decoding unit that decodes the encoded image data received by the receiving unit,

an image processing unit that processes the decoded image data into a stereoscopic display format so as to be displayable on a display unit, the display unit displaying image data processed by the image processing unit,

a request information input unit that allows input of the client's request information,

a request information transmitting unit that transmits the request information to the network, and

an identification information adding unit that adds to the image data to be transmitted a piece of information that indicates whether the image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.

9. (Previously presented) An image data transmitting apparatus, comprising:

a request information receiving unit that receives client's request information transmitted by way of a network;

a request information analyzing unit that analyzes the request information received by the request information receiving unit;

a multiple viewpoint image supply unit that supplies multiple viewpoint image data;

an image generating unit which, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing unit, receives input of necessary image data from the multiple viewpoint image supply unit and generates left eye viewpoint image data and right eye viewpoint image data of an image viewed from a viewpoint in conformity with the request information;

an image synthesizing unit that synthesizes the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data generated by the image generating unit, based on display unit information from the request information, by joining the left eye viewpoint image data and the right eye viewpoint image data side-by-side;

a coding unit that encodes image data synthesized by the image synthesizing unit;

a transmitting unit that transmits the encoded image data to the network; and

an identification information adding unit that adds to the image data to be transmitted a piece of information that indicates whether the image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.

10. (Previously presented) An image data receiving apparatus, comprising;

a receiving unit that receives, by way of a network, coded image data of an image viewed from a left eye viewpoint and a right eye in conformity with client's request information transmitted by way of a network, the coded image data including left eye viewpoint image data and right eye viewpoint image data that have been joined side-by-side;

a decoding unit that decodes the coded image data received by the receiving unit;

an image processing unit that processes the decoded image data into a stereoscopic display format so as to be displayable on a display unit, the display unit displaying image data processed by the image processing unit;

a request information input unit that allows input of request information of a client;

a request information transmitting unit that transmits the request information to the network; and

an identification information adding unit that adds to the received image data a piece of information that indicates whether the image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.